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What's new in Open Distance e-Learning Libraries

NEW ROLES, ABILITIES, SKILLS AND SOLUTIONS

Outline

- ▶ Introduction
- ▶ South African National Development Plan 2030
- ▶ Traditional Role of Librarians in Open Distance Learning (ODL)
- ▶ Unknown facts about librarians in ODL
- ▶ Librarians as team players in ODL institutions
- ▶ New Roles for Open Distance Librarians
- ▶ Student Profiling
- ▶ Use of ICT for information delivery

Outline continued.....

- ▶ Unisa library taking services to students
- ▶ Use of mobile devices
- ▶ The use of social media platforms
- ▶ Paradigm shift
- ▶ Opportunities for academic librarians
- ▶ Conclusion

Introduction

- ▶ Evolving world
- ▶ Change in titles
- ▶ Changing environment
- ▶ Change in information needs
- ▶ Competencies

South African National Development Plan 2030

- ▶ Long term strategy for the following:
 - ▶ Increase employment
 - ▶ Broaden opportunities through education
 - ▶ Vocational training
 - ▶ Public employment programmes
 - ▶ Access to information

Traditional role of librarians

- **Historically:**
 - ▶ Collection Development
 - ▶ Subject specific
 - ▶ Library Orientation
 - ▶ Branded with books

Librarians as team players in academic institutions

- ▶ Institutions in online transition
- ▶ Modes of delivery
- ▶ Marketing tools
- ▶ Access to Information
- ▶ Use of different technologies

New Roles for Academic librarians in ODeL

- ▶ Student Profiling
- ▶ Information Delivery
Access
- ▶ Taking services to students
 - ▶ Services to Correctional centres
 - ▶ Mobile Libraries
 - ▶ Mobile devices
 - ▶ Mobile Apps
 - ▶ Library Apps
 - ▶ Marketing services and social media

Taking services to students



- **Services**

- **Database searches**
- **Catalogue searches**
- **Information literacy training**
- **Circulation services (issuing, renewals, requests and returning of books)**
- **Marketing of library services**
- **General enquiries**

Taking services to correctional centers



Pilot

- Began in 2014
- Render service to Losperfontein, Kgosi Mampuru and Zonderwater prisons
- Human Resource issues
- Risks
 - Transfer of inmates

Mobile Apps for Open Distance Learning libraries

- Page (2013:19) growing usage of mobile devices- shows that people cannot leave without mobile phones
 - Students use smartphones
 - Mobile applications
- Dresselhaus and Shrode (2013:83) mobile access to university resources makes good sense for the distance education population
 - Access study materials
- Casner and Adams (2012:117) argues that librarians should keep up with current technologies to advance skills

Unisa library taking services to students through Library app



**Download Unisa
Library's App from
Google Play Store or
Apple Store**



- **Services**
- Search library catalogue
- Access and download e-reserves
- Request books
- Renew books
- View your Library account
- Find branch locations
- Access library guides
- Scan QR Codes or ISBNs from books and then check to see if the item is in the library.

Unisa library everywhere



Library in the palm of your hand

Download Unisa Library's Brand-New App from the Google Play Store or Apple Store.

Conveniently:

- Log into your library account
- Search the Library catalogue
- Request material
- Renew items
- Locate a branch near you
- Scan any book's barcode to check if the Unisa Library has the book in its collection

The App is also available as a web app at: <http://www.library@unisa.com/nu/917>

UNISA 

Benefits

- Have your library at the comfort of your bed
- No need to physically go to the library
- Manage your library account

“ Thanks to Ms Khuliso Matsheka and Batlet for a wonderful work”

Use of social media

- Hines (2013) argues online communication and social media – manage information overload
- Unisa library – facilitates collaboration and effective communication
- Kumah and Ayiah (2011) – social network site enable students to have discussions with librarians.

Paradigm shift and transition in knowledge

Traditional academic library

- ▶ Focus mainly on books and journals
- ▶ Librarians worked as collection specialists
- ▶ Management of information systems is limited to physical library building

21st century academic library

- ▶ Focus on different forms of Information resources eg Institutional repositories, online databases, electronic information resources
- ▶ Librarians are faculty liaisons
- ▶ Information management systems on cloud

Paradigm shift continues.....

Traditional academic library

- ▶ Manual inter library loan system
- ▶ Library services only available during library opening hours
- ▶ Library users information needs easily identified
- ▶ High dependence on print materials
- ▶ Physical visit to the library

Jain, 2013:14.....

21st century academic library

- ▶ Electronic inter library loan
- ▶ Library services available 24/7
- ▶ Diverse library user information needs
- ▶ High dependence on electronic resources
- ▶ 24/7 access to digital information

Delivery modes

- Print format



- Electronic format



Opportunities for academic Librarians

- Leaders in knowledge management
- Partnership with academia
- Faculty advisors

Conclusion

- Librarians have a lot to offer
- Change in Mindset
- Let us admire technology and not feel threatened
- The future of the coming generations is right in our hands
- Let us continue to create informed nation
- We are information specialist

Thank you

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